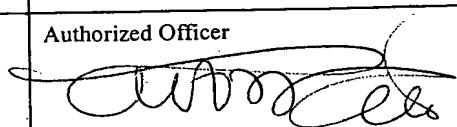


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 114622 EJH:ts	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).	
International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000331	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 9 March 2005	Priority Date (day/month/year) 9 March 2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC			
Int. Cl. F16L 15/02 (2006.01) F16L 15/04 (2006.01) F16L 15/08 (2006.01)	F16L 15/00 (2006.01) F16L 27/08 (2006.01) F16L 27/087 (2006.01) F16L 27/12 (2006.01)	F16L 25/12 (2006.01) F16L 55/07 (2006.01)	F16L 55/00 (2006.01)
Applicant TINGLEWOOD TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD et al			

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 11 sheet(s).</p>																	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">I</td> <td style="width: 90%; padding-left: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">II</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">III</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">IV</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">V</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">VI</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">VII</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">VIII</td> <td style="padding-left: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>		I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report	II	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority	III	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	IV	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention	V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	VI	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited	VII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application	VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application
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VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application																

Date of submission of the demand 9 January 2006	Date of completion of the report 08 March 2006
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	<p>Authorized Officer</p>  <p>G.B. NATH</p> <p>Telephone No. (02) 6283 2126</p>

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000331

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed. the description, pages 4-9, 11-12, as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

Pages 1,2, 3/1-3/3, 10/1,10/2, received on 10 January 2006 with the letter of 10 January 2006

 the claims, pages , as originally filed,

pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages 13-16, received on 10 January 2006 with the letter of 10 January 2006

 the drawings, pages 1/8-8/8, as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on with the letter of

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages the claims, Nos. the drawings, sheets/fig.5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-23	YES
	Claims None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-23	YES
	Claims None	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-23	YES
	Claims None	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents:

D1: Derwent Abstract Accession No. 99-291011/25, Class Q67, JP 11094162 A (SEKISUI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CO. LTD) 9 April 1999

D2: Derwent Abstract Accession No., 1999-605489/52 Class Q67, JP 11264491A (OSAKA GAS CO. LTD) 28 September 1999

D3: CA 2296195A (HAYNES) 24 May 2001

D4: EP396029 B (MCGRAW) 30 September 1992

D5: US 4998756A (HART) 12 March 1991

2.1 Novelty and Inventive Step:

D1, D3 and D5 are the nearest prior art to the invention claimed, each of which disclose a pipe insert which is adjustable in length. However none of them disclose a pipe insert "which in use provide a connection between two spaced pipe ends....enabling the connection of an appliance between the pipe ends ... etc" (see present claim 1). Thus, none of the documents D1-D5 cited in the International Search Report or any combination of them can be considered to anticipate the invention as defined in claim 1.

The dependent claims concern further developments of the invention and are also considered to be novel and inventive.

Therefore, the claims 1-23 are considered to meet the criteria of Novelty, Inventive Step.

2.2 All the claims conform to the criteria of Industrial Applicability